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HOUSE MEMORIAL 6

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

**HONORING THE NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS OF NEW MEXICO BY
RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF TRIBES TO BE SELF-GOVERNING AND URGING
CONTINUED GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION FOR THE HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE TRIBAL AND NONTRIBAL CITIZENS OF NEW
MEXICO.**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico's nations, tribes and pueblos are
centuries-old communities that established and continue to
employ well-organized tribal self-governing systems; and**

**WHEREAS, the existence and significance of Indian self-
government and tribal sovereignty over tribal homelands was
acknowledged in New Mexico from the outset of European contact
as evidenced by the early Spanish land grants, the recognition
of civil and political rights by the independent government of
Mexico, the United States in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe**

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1 Hidalgo and by the state in its Enabling Act of 1910; and

2 WHEREAS, the state has continued to recognize and respect
3 the sovereign tribal governments of New Mexico through many
4 state laws that encourage the use of cooperative agreements
5 that authorize and encourage the legislative, executive and
6 judicial branches of the New Mexico government to coordinate
7 and work cooperatively with the nations, tribes and pueblos of
8 New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature celebrates and honors the
10 governments, leadership and contributions of the nations,
11 tribes and pueblos of New Mexico through an annual recognition
12 day known as "American Indian Day", occurring this year on
13 February 4, 2003; and

14 WHEREAS, the governor is in the process of executing
15 agreements reaffirming government-to-government relationships
16 between the state and the nations, tribes and pueblos of New
17 Mexico;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it salute and
20 honor the nations, tribes and pueblos of New Mexico by
21 reaffirming its recognition of their status as sovereign
22 governments and the legislature's commitment to interact with
23 the nations, tribes and pueblos on a government-to-government
24 basis so as to promote intergovernmental cooperation,
25 coordination and communication on all matters; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
2 delegation be encouraged to support and reaffirm the
3 government-to-government relationship between states and tribes
4 and the fundamental principle that Indian nations, tribes and
5 pueblos retain their inherent rights over their tribal lands
6 except as provided by congress in an act of law or by the
7 ratification of a treaty; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the house of representatives
9 express its high regard for the pueblos, nations and tribes of
10 New Mexico and all they have done to strengthen community
11 through their willingness to work cooperatively with the state
12 in many areas such as taxation, tourism, environmental
13 protection, social services delivery, health, education, gaming
14 and public safety; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to each of the nations, tribes and pueblos of New
17 Mexico, the president of the United States, the New Mexico
18 congressional delegation, the president and president pro
19 tempore of the United States senate, the speaker of the United
20 States house of representatives and the New Mexico legislative
21 council.